

### The Refuge

Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge was established in 2000 primarily to conserve, restore, and manage native forested wetland habitats for migratory birds, aquatic resources, and endangered and threatened plants and animals. The refuge is located along the Mississippi River about 30 miles north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The habitat consists of bottomland hardwood forests and cypress/tupelo swamps, which are inundated by the Mississippi River each year. The refuge is known for its numerous old growth cypress trees, many of which are over 1,000 years old.

Access to the refuge is limited during late winter/spring due to nearly annual flooding by the Mississippi River. To assist refuge visitors, the refuge boundary is marked with white refuge boundary signs and yellow boundary paint. Markings are located at both eye level and up to about 15 feet high. It is the responsibility of the visitor to recognize these markings and to avoid trespassing onto private property adjacent to the refuge.

### General Regulations

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge officers. To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Cat Island, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations.

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman as well as wildlife populations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting and fishing on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable state regulations subject to the following regulations.

The refuge is open to public access between 4:00 am and one hour after legal sunset.

Special arrangements can be made to accommodate persons with bona fide disabilities by contacting the refuge office.

### Weapons and Ammunition

Firearms, archery tackle, and crossbows are permitted on the refuge only during designated refuge hunts.

Firearms carried in vehicles or boats must be unloaded AND encased or dismantled. Firearms carried on ATVs must be unloaded. Loaded is defined as shells in gun or caps on muzzleloader. Archery tackle and crossbows must be uncocked with arrow unnoocked from string.

Only .22 caliber or less rimfire rifles and shotguns are permitted except during the muzzleloader and gun deer hunts. Handguns are not permitted.

Possession of shot larger than that legal for waterfowl hunting is prohibited. Only non-toxic shot is permitted. Use or possession of lead shot is prohibited on the refuge.

### Exceptions

During quota gun and muzzleloader deer hunts, lead ammunition legal for taking deer may be used.

Small game, furbearers, raccoon, feral hogs, beaver, nutria, and coyotes may be hunted with .22 caliber or less rimfire lead ammunition during open seasons.

### Permits

When signed and in your possession, the permit on the front of this brochure serves as your permit for all refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. Additional refuge permits are required for deer quota hunts.

### To Apply for Quota Hunt Permits

Print or type your name, address, phone number, birth date, and drivers license number on a 3x5 index card or standard postcard. A \$5.00 application fee per **person** must be submitted with each entry (certified checks or money orders only). For example, if four people are in a group the fee is \$20.00.

On the 3x5 card, indicate the hunt (muzzleloader or gun) for which you are applying. A separate card must be filled out for each hunt. Only one entry per person or group. To apply as a group (maximum of five hunters per group), list required information for all applicants on the same card. You may apply for both hunts.

Return completed cards to the refuge office by close of business (4:00 pm) on August 20, 2004 for both muzzleloader and gun deer hunts. You may mail entries to P.O. Box 1936, St. Francisville, LA 70775 or hand deliver to the NEW office location at 11763 Ferdinand Street, St. Francisville. Duplicate, unclear or incomplete cards will not be considered. No faxed entries will be accepted.

Applicants will be selected via random drawing and will be notified by September 17, 2004 for both deer quota hunts. Selected individuals will be required to send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and cashier's check or money order for \$15.00 to receive a permit (no personal checks accepted).

Permits are non-transferrable and must be in the hunter's possession at all times while on the refuge during the permitted hunt. Only hunters with valid quota permits are allowed on the refuge during quota hunts.

### Motorized Vehicles

All motorized vehicles are restricted to roads that are delineated on refuge map. Exceptions: Standard manufacturer's high flotation all-terrain vehicles or ATVs (3 and 4-wheelers) defined as an off-road vehicle with factory specifications not to exceed the following: weight-750 lbs., length-85", and width-48" are permitted on trails designated by ATV signs. ATV tires are restricted to those no larger than 25 X 12 with a maximum 1" lug height and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 7psi as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer.

ATV trails are open from September 10, 2004 through the last day of rabbit season. Exception: Portions of Wood Duck ATV Trail are open throughout the year for wildlife-dependent activities as indicated on refuge map.

ATVs are only allowed for wildlife-dependent activities. The maximum legal speed for any land vehicle is 25 mph.

### Specific Hunting Regulations

State bag limits apply unless otherwise specified. The only seasons open are those listed in this brochure.

All hunters must sign in at refuge check station upon entering and leaving refuge.

Hunters may enter and exit the refuge from designated refuge parking areas only.

Hunting is permitted only in designated areas during dates shown in brochure. Possession of firearms or archery tackle is prohibited in areas posted as "No Hunting Zones."

Hunters under 16 years of age must possess proof of completion of an approved Hunter Safety Course and be accompanied (in sight and in normal voice contact) at all times by an adult 21 years old or older. Each adult must have a refuge permit and can supervise only one youth during deer hunts and not more than two youths during all other hunts.

Harvest records are vital to the management of refuge wildlife resources. You must report your game harvest at the check station after each hunt. When the refuge entrance gate is locked, hunters must report harvests made on the refuge by calling or stopping by the refuge office (225/635 4753).

Archery hunters (regardless of age) must possess proof of completion of the International Bowhunter Education Course.

All deer taken during quota hunts must be checked at the refuge check station on same day killed. Hunters must leave the hunt area once they have killed a deer.

Waterfowl, small game and archery deer hunting is prohibited during refuge quota muzzleloader and gun deer hunts.

A hunter orange vest and hat is required while hunting during refuge quota hunts.

Only portable deer stands may be used. Deer stands must have the owner's name, address and phone number clearly printed on the stand. Stands may be erected two days before each hunt and must be removed within two days after each hunt.

Only temporary waterfowl hunting blinds are allowed. Blinds and decoys must be removed daily.

Beaver, feral hogs, nutria, raccoon and coyote may be taken incidental to any refuge hunt with weapons legal for that hunt until the daily bag limit of game is taken. Hunting is permitted during daylight hours only. Hunting any wildlife other than migratory birds, squirrel and rabbit with dogs is prohibited.

Dogs are only allowed to locate, point, and retrieve when hunting for migratory game birds.

Hunting with dogs for migratory birds is permitted during migratory bird seasons. Hunting with dogs for rabbit and squirrel is permitted during rabbit and squirrel seasons beginning January 17, 2005.

Up to two dogs per hunting party are permitted for squirrel hunting. All dogs must be collared with owner's name and phone number. Use of dogs to trail wounded deer is prohibited.

### Commercial Activities

Refuge regulations require anyone engaged in a commercial activity (fishing, hunting, etc.) to first obtain a refuge special use permit. Anyone planning to pursue a commercial activity on refuge land, lakes, bayous or waters are advised to contact the refuge manager for information on permitted commercial activities and special use permits.

### Sport Fishing Regulations

Fishing is permitted on the refuge throughout the year during legal sunrise and legal sunset only. No commercial activity is permitted.

Anglers may harvest any fish species on the refuge that is permitted by State regulations. State fish bag and size limits apply.

Appropriate State licenses and State recreational gear licenses are required.

Use of gear or equipment other than hook and line to catch bait fish is prohibited.

Recreational crawfishing is permitted on the refuge with either traps or nets from April 1-July 31, 2005. The harvest limit is 100 pounds per vehicle or boat per day. All traps and nets must be attended at all times and may not be left on the refuge overnight. Parking is only permitted in designated parking areas. No parking is permitted along the refuge road.

The minimum mesh size for crawfish traps must be a hexagon of three-quarters by eleven-sixteenths of one inch (measured from wire to wire, not including coating). A State recreational gear license is required in addition to other State licensing requirements to harvest crawfish with traps on the refuge. Traps (including all traps in possession of the angler) must be marked with a waterproof tag with the name and State recreational gear license number of the fisherman legibly printed on the tag. Only 20 traps per angler are permitted on the refuge at the same time.

Crawfish nets are permitted on the refuge and require no additional licenses other than a basic State fishing license.

No slat traps or hoop nets are permitted on the refuge.

The use of trotlines and yo-yos is permitted. The ends of trotlines must consist of a length of cotton line that extends from the points of attachment into the water. Yo-yos must be attended (within sight) at all times.

Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight.

Air thrust boats are prohibited.




Possession of cleaned or processed fish on the refuge is prohibited.

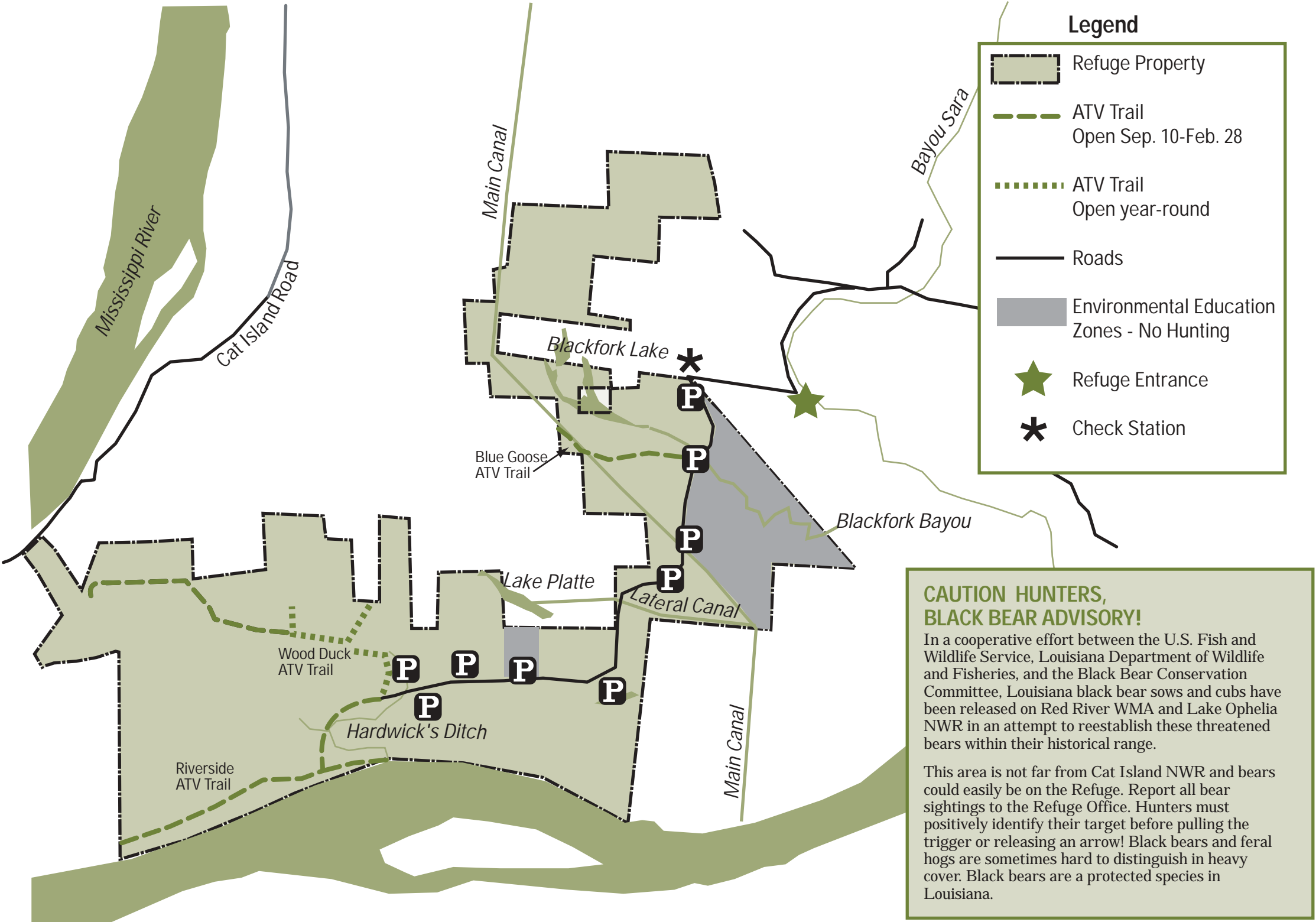
No harvest of frogs or turtles is permitted on the refuge.

### Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited on Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge:

- Taking wildlife or plants or parts thereof (including cutting trees or brush)
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting or operating an ATV
- Littering
- Camping /overnight parking
- Discharge of a firearm, except when hunting

- Baiting or hunting over bait or salt
  - Hunting within 150 feet of any designated road, ATV or hiking trail, or designated public facility, such as kiosks
  - Possession or use of non-biodegradable flagging tape
  - Trapping
  - Horses or mules
  - Possession of saws, saw blades, and/or machetes
  - Fires
  - Spot-lighting - artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife
  - Man-drives for deer or feral hogs
  - Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts
  - Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles or ATVs
  - Driving a nail, spike or other metal object into a tree, or hunting from any tree in which such an object has been driven
  - Using climbing spikes
  - Parking along roads or in areas that are not designated as parking areas
- A rectangular sign with a black border. At the top, it says "NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE" in bold. In the center is a silhouette of a bird in flight. At the bottom, it says "UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY PROHIBITED" and "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE".
- This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses (hunting, fishing, sightseeing, etc.) in accordance with refuge regulations.
- A rectangular sign with a black border. It says "AREA BEYOND THIS SIGN CLOSED" in bold. To the right is a circular logo with a bird. At the bottom, it says "All public entry prohibited".
- This area is closed to all entry. No hunting, fishing or sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails are open to the public.
- A rectangular sign with a black border. It says "NO HUNTING ZONE" in bold. To the right is a circular logo with a bird.
- This area is closed to all hunting. Firearms and archery equipment are strictly prohibited.



2004-2005 Hunting Seasons	Season Dates		Specific Regulations
	Type	State Season	
Rabbit		State Season	Closed during muzzleloader and gun deer hunts. Dogs permitted January 17, 2005 to end of State squirrel season.
Deer-Archery		State Season	Closed during muzzleloader and gun deer hunts. Dogs permitted January 17, 2005 to end of State rabbit season. One, either-sex deer per day, closed during muzzleloader and gun deer quota hunts.
Deer-Muzzleloader		State Season	<b>Special Quota Permit Required</b> One, either-sex deer per hunt, hunter orange (hat and vest) required, hunters must check in and out at check station.
Deer-Gun		State Season	<b>Special Quota Permit Required</b> One, either-sex deer per hunt, hunter orange (hat and vest) required, hunters must check in and out at check station.
Waterfowl		State Season	Closed during muzzleloader and gun deer hunts. Boats, blinds, and decoys must be removed daily. Non-toxic shot only. Possession of lead shot prohibited.
Woodcock		State Season	Closed during muzzleloader and gun deer hunts. Non-toxic shot required.

Cat Island  
National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 1936  
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775  
225/635 4753

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD  
<http://southeast.fws.gov>

June 2004



Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge  
Hunting Permit 2004-2005  
When signed and in your possession, this brochure serves as your permit for all refuge hunts (except quota hunts) and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Signature (Permit is non-transferable)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cat Island  
National Wildlife Refuge  
Hunting and Fishing  
Regulations  
2004-2005